

Recycling Division

Recycling

- The Blue Earth County Recycling Center is operated by Waste Management, through a contract.
- The Recycling Center is open to both residential and business users free of charge for most items, like glass, plastics, metals, paper and cardboard.
- Fees are charged for recycling tires, major appliances, vehicle batteries, electronics and pallets.



Solid Waste

- Blue Earth County encourages all garbage to go to the Integrated System, starting with the Minnesota Waste Processing Company Transfer Station. Waste is collected at the privately-owned Transfer Station, and transported to Newport, MN where it is processed. After processing, the waste is called Refuse Derived Fuel, and burned to generate electricity. While non-burnable fractions of the waste are removed, it is NOT TRUE that materials are removed for recycling. The non-burnable portion goes to the Blue Earth County-owned Ponderosa Landfill.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental Services develops programs to protect and clean up the environment, protect ground water, and establish management of solid waste in Blue Earth County.

The Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department was established in 1990 to implement legislative mandates for County environmental programs, carry out the environmental policies of the Blue Earth County Board and citizens.

The Environmental Services Department is made up of the following three divisions:

- Waste and Recycling
- Land Use
- Environmental Health

Government Center, 3rd Floor
410 S. 5th Street
P.O. Box 3566
Mankato, MN 56002-3566
Phone: (507) 304-4381

24-Hour Waste and
Recycling Hotline:
507-304-4242

www.blueearthcountymn.gov



Printed on recycled paper, 30% post-consumer waste

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Developing
Programs
to Protect and
Clean the
Environment



waste and

Blue Earth County participates in an Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS), which seeks to minimize the amount of waste placed in landfills. This is accomplished through a variety of programs and facilities, some of which are privately owned.

Hazardous Waste

- Blue Earth County owns and operates the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility at 651 Summit Avenue in Mankato. It is open April through October on a limited basis.
- Residents of Nicollet, Sibley and LeSueur Counties also use this Facility. Only residential waste is accepted through this free program, such as paint, home cleaners, and yard and garden chemicals.



- Some hazardous waste from businesses is accepted through the Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program. Businesses are charged for disposal based on weight.



Land Use and Natural Resources Division

The various programs in this division specify the permitted uses, the density and bulk of the buildings, required yards, setbacks, required off-street parking, and other requisites to obtain permission to develop. The principal objective is to ensure that commercial and industrial development is segregated from residential areas.



- Greenprint is a smart growth strategy that emphasizes land conservation to ensure quality of life, clean air and water, recreation, and economic health.
- Planning and Zoning
 - ◊ Building Permits are required for new structures, and anything that changes the outer structure of an existing building, such as a deck
 - ◊ Variances
 - ◊ Conditional Use Permits
 - ◊ Maintain Zoning Maps outlining permitted uses
- Feedlots
 - ◊ Feedlot permits and inspections



- Rural Addressing
 - ◊ A Rural Addressing Ordinance was adopted by the County Board to ensure the integrity and uniformity of addressing and road signage.
- Subdivision and Platting
 - ◊ This requires the approval of the Town Board of the Township in which the property is located.
- Shoreland Development
 - ◊ Permits are required for most development within shoreland areas.



- Flood Plain Development
 - ◊ The flood hazard areas of Blue Earth County are subject to periodic flooding, which results in potential loss of life, loss of property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services. Blue Earth County regulates development within flood hazard areas.
- Open Burning
 - ◊ Most burning of buildings is prohibited. Before burning or burying any building, check with Environmental Services.
 - ◊ Most garbage burning is prohibited.
 - ◊ Burn Permits for brush only are available from the Sheriff's Office

Environmental Health Division

Much of the work done in this division centers around water.

- Water wells in Blue Earth County require a County permit, and are inspected throughout the entire drilling process.



- Old water wells that are no longer in use must be properly sealed under a County Well Sealing Permit. Old unused wells often represent a threat to ground water quality.



- Well water testing for rural wells is currently offered through the County, for a fee. Nitrate-Nitrogen and Coliform bacteria testing is available.
- This division administers the Wetland Conservation Act, which regulates the excavating, draining or filling of wetlands.



- The Environmental Health division requires meth lab testing and possible clean-up as needed.
- Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems require a County permit. There are inspections during the design and installation of each system. Soils are verified for drainfield type and suitability, based on soil saturation (seasonal water table), and physical characteristics of the site.



- The County's priority water resource concerns are addressed in a Water Management Plan, with program goals to provide direction for Blue Earth County and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) programs. The priority concerns include:

- ◊ Ground water
- ◊ Surface water
 - Agricultural runoff & soil erosion
 - Feedlots, manure management
 - Stormwater runoff
- ◊ Drainage ditches
- ◊ Wetlands and wildlife
- ◊ Ground water and surface water
 - Wastewater treatment - subsurface sewage treatment systems
 - Mercury, pesticides & household hazardous waste

